

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER MICHALSKI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Christopher Michalski of New York City, New York. Mr. Michalski is an asset to our fair city and a testament to the American dream.

Mr. Michalski was born on July 12, 1949 in a small city in Poland where he grew up with huge dreams of coming to America. While in school he studied architecture extensively and eventually received a master's degree in structural engineering. He instantly put his knowledge to good use by following in his family's footsteps to become a third generation church builder.

While Mr. Michalski was in his midtwenties, he was afforded an opportunity to migrate to America of which he eagerly took advantage. With strength and perseverance Chris was able to build a new life for himself and his family in New York City. He married his long-time love Dorothy and had two beautiful children, Monica and Eric.

Today, Chris Michalski can be found running his company, Solution New York Contracting Inc., while interacting with people from all over the world. He is a dog lover, a church builder, and a one-of-a-kind individual.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Chris Michalski: for his hard work and structural contributions to the city of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this intrepid individual who is fine example of the entrepreneurial spirit upon which America was built.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN TIMOTHY MCGOVERN, U.S. ARMY, OF IDAVILLE, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Captain Timothy McGovern of Idaville, Indiana, who died on October 31, 2007 while serving in Mosul, Iraq. Assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Tim was leading his troops in a mission clearing roads of IEDs when his group came under fire and his Bradley was hit by a roadside bomb. Today I would like to take a moment to mourn a well-lived life cut tragically short.

After moving to Idaville as a teen, Tim graduated from Twin Lakes High School in 1997 where he excelled in honors classes and was a star in football and track. Even at that point it was clear what Tim was going to do with his

life, as his former football coach commented, "It didn't surprise me at all when he joined the armed forces and became an officer . . . that was just the kind of guy he was." And it probably didn't surprise anyone, for a career in the Army was in Tim's blood: just a year before he graduated from high school, his father Bill retired from the Army having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Tim started on that path immediately following high school, when he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps while attending Purdue University. Less than two years after his graduation from Purdue in 2001, Tim set off to serve the first of his two tours of duty in Iraq. "He was on his very first tour when the war in Iraq started, and when he came home, (he) didn't hesitate to do another," his uncle Mike recalls.

Although Tim was in the process of buying a house in El Paso, Texas, his heart remained with his family in Idaville and with the Chicago Bears. During his second tour of duty in Iraq, Tim was given a two-week pass to return home to the United States. He made sure to return home for the Superbowl, and Tim's parents will never forget their last moments spent at home with their beloved son. "He was a Bears fan," his mother Jonell said. "He was one of the few rooting for the Bears, him and his grandmother. That's going to stay in our minds for a really long time."

But if his heart was with his family, his passion and purpose was with the Army. As captain of a ninety-member company, Tim showed exemplary dedication to his duties as an officer and to the safety and well-being of his men. His mother noted, "He said the thing he was the most proud of was that he had not sent anybody home injured and that nobody had been killed from his group. To him, that meant he was doing his job." Safety did not mean staying away from where the action was, however. He assumed command of Company E from Captain Tim Hudson, who said "We both chose to go to El Paso and Fort Bliss, and we both came here for the same reason. And that was to come out here and command soldiers in combat." Having commanded Company E for twenty months, Captain Hudson could only praise Tim's work upon assuming command in June. "I put my heart and soul into this company," Hudson said. "And after he took over, Echo Company only got better."

What was Tim's secret to being an excellent commander? He may well have shared it with 1st Lieutenant Michael Holbrook. "He told me there was no greater honor than leading American soldiers in combat. I'm going to remember that until the day I hang up my uniform."

A private man, Tim would not have wanted all the attention placed on his life. "He wouldn't have liked this," said his mother. "He would have wanted people to be thinking about the other soldiers still over there fighting." For that reason, I wish to remember those soldiers Tim commanded in Echo Company still serving in Mosul, and all those serv-

ing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Indeed, may we keep all those in the Armed Forces in our hearts and prayers as a way of honoring and remembering Tim's outstanding service and loyal dedication to our great nation.

CONGRATULATING ERICA FRENCH OF LOWERY ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Erica French, a teacher at Lowery Road Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas. Ms. French was chosen as one of fourteen recipients of the 2007–2008 Chairs for Teaching Excellence award.

The Fort Worth School District recognizes the teachers, and to be chosen, you must be nominated by a principal, parent, or colleague. The selection process also entails an interview and an evaluated teaching demonstration. The teachers were presented with their awards at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth.

It is my honor to represent a teacher such as Ms. French in the 26th District of Texas. Her dedication to education, her school, and her students and families of Fort Worth, Texas should be viewed as an example for all.

TRIBUTE TO MACK HARMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mack Harmon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mack has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Mack has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mack Harmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION FOR ALL ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Property Tax Deduction for All Act,

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